

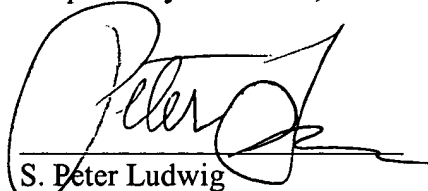
REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-35 and 44-76. Claims 34, 35, 75 and 76 are allowed. Claims 1 and 44 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-7, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 45-50, 60, 62, 64, 66 and 68 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 and 44-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Obradovich et al. (U.S. Patent 6,330,497), in view of Nakadozono (U.S. Patent 5,121,112) and (with respect to certain claims) in view of Opel (U.S. Patent 5,555,502). Applicant has accordingly canceled independent claims 1 and 44. The claims that previously depended from these canceled claims have now been amended to depend from allowed claim 35 or 76. Thus, claims 2-33 now depend directly or indirectly from claim 35, while claims 45-74 depend directly or indirectly from claim 76. In view of the allowance of claims 35 and 76, the dependent claims are believed to be patentable, as well.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Ludwig", is written over a horizontal line.

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